

Please replace claim 33 as follows:

33 (amended). A method of manufacturing an RF ceramic filter comprising the steps of:

providing a ceramic block having an outer surface with at least one pair of opposing sides and defining a plurality of through holes extending between the opposing sides;

encasing the block with a conductive coating;

heat treating the coated block;

ablatively etching the conductive coating and a portion of the ceramic block from selected areas of the heat-treated coated block to form a pattern of metallized and unmetallized recessed areas on the block; and

heat treating the patterned block.

Please replace claim 38 as follows:

38 (amended). A method of manufacturing an RF ceramic filter comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a ceramic block having an outer surface with at least one pair of opposing sides and defining a plurality of through holes extending between the opposing sides;

(b) encasing the block with a conductive coating;

(c) heat treating the coated block;

(d) ablatively etching with a laser the conductive metal coating and a portion of the [underlying] ceramic block from selected areas of the heat-treated coated block to form a pattern of metallized and unmetallized recessed areas on the block,

wherein the pattern of metallized and unmetallized recessed areas includes a transmitter pad, an antenna pad and a receiver pad;

repeating steps (a) through (d) to make a plurality of patterned blocks and thereafter heat treating the plurality of patterned blocks.